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REF: NMNI 4232

Forwarded herewith is a contact report on a recent meeting with GSEIDEL. The report contains some interesting information on UTILITY and the position of CATIDE in the German government.

ATTACHMENT:

Contact Report dated 25 October 1965

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CONTACT REPORT

(and @SEIDEL)

Bruecke

25 October 1965, 1210 - 1500 hours

1. The meeting was scheduled by me by telephone on 22 October. The purpose was to obtain additional information on the Bundeswehr SIGINT deserter whom SEIDEL had previously mentioned to me. This topic was covered satisfactorily, and SEIDEL then went on to volunteer information on other highly interesting topics. The details are outlined below.

2. I am quite surprised at SEIDEL's desire to talk confidentially to me. We are not regular liaison partners, and have never seen a great deal of each other socially, although he has been at my home on three or four occasions. However, SEIDEL has practically gushed information the last two times I have seen him, and today he even debriefed himself on his brother-in-law, UTILITY. Other than BROCK, no one in CATIDE has ever talked so unreservedly to me.

3. I have the impression that SEIDEL's family relationship with UTILITY is not at all a good one. He spoke of UTILITY with considerable bitterness. I believe also that SEIDEL is quite disappointed in not having been appointed to succeed @HEUKEN. One excuse for this we have heard is that UTILITY felt he could not appoint SEIDEL without opening himself to charges of nepotism. However, this excuse does not ring at all true in view of the notorious way UTILITY has taken care of his other relatives.

4. For the first hour of our meeting, SEIDEL and I talked only about personal topics. SEIDEL described his boyhood in Silesia, his family's conservatism, his original study of law and later transfer to the Army, and his service on the east front and in Rastenburg. SEIDEL seems to have been extraordinarily well connected in the German officer corps and tossed around names like Blomberg, Keitel, Busch, Heusinger, Speidel and many others as if they were the folks next door. Speidel's family doubtlessly accounts for many of these connections, but to a large extent I expect they are also due to merit on his part. He told one fascinating little story of seeing Keitel running like a dog to Hitler's bunker in Rastenburg after Hitler had rung for him.

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5. Then SEIDEL talked at some length about the criminal excesses of the Nazi regime and the difficulty his generation has in explaining their actions or lack of them to the present young people of Germany. SEIDEL and most other conservative officers like him have a guilt complex about the Nazi regime, and are in a quandry to explain their service of the regime to their children. Almost every CATIDER I know well has sooner or later given me a monologue on this theme.

6. Finally I got SEIDEL down to business by querying him about the Bundeswehr deserter. His reply was forwarded in MUNI 4232. I was quite surprised at his offer to brief us unofficially on the case. He also made a remark about UTILITY being anti-American that surprised me.

7. Next SEIDEL brought up the Breisach Institute and CATIDE's dealings with Professor Rawer. He talked at some length on this topic and recapitulated all his past discussions with [redacted] about Breisach. At the conclusion of his presentation SEIDEL asked that I check into the matter and see if I could get KUBARK headquarters to be more helpful to CATIDE on the project, or, if that were impossible, to at least give CATIDE a definitive statement that cooperation with CATIDE was not desired. As soon as time permits, I will forward SEIDEL's points to Headquarters by dispatch.

CATIDE MORALE & FUTURE C 3 6 SEIDEL 25 Oct 1965

8. By this time SEIDEL and I had been talking for close to two hours and I expected him to take leave and go back to his office. However, instead of doing so he suddenly switched his conversation to UTILITY and the sorry state of affairs in CATIDE. I neither urged him on nor tried to shut him off, and for the next half hour he really unburdened his soul about what was wrong with CATIDE. He spoke in a rather dispassionate manner, almost as if he were presenting a briefing on the topic. He mentioned a couple of times that his views were shared by a large number of other discontented and frustrated officers in CATIDE.

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9. SEIDEL started by saying that UTILITY is burned out and a burden rather than a help to CATIDE. He said that UTILITY does not establish programs, set goals, delegate authority, sell the CATIDE product, defend the organization.

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politically, or any of the other things a good chief of CATIDE would do. On the contrary, he ignores these matters and lets the organization drift along without leadership or any sense of purpose. UTILITY does not face up to the major problems CATIDE faces, and spends his time with minor organizational and personnel matters. He will not let anyone else make a decision on a matter of importance, but frequently procrastinates over decisions so long himself that the matter becomes academic before the decision is made. He allows his division chiefs and senior officers to do as they please and work at cross purposes with each other. He is very fearful of flaps and afraid to assume risks. He will not tolerate dissenting opinions and surrounds himself with yes men. He cannot bring himself to dismiss his tired old friends and cronies. He is timid to the politicians in Bonn and creates an unfavorable impression of CATIDE.

10. SEIDEL said that he thought UTILITY's decline dated from the legalization of CATIDE in 1955-56. When CATIDE was legalized UTILITY had to take on a large number of organizational, financial, and personnel problems which he was ill prepared to handle. UTILITY was also confronted with a good deal of hostility in Bonn and got into the habit of being meek to the politicians. Since that time UTILITY has concentrated on the administrative and political aspects of his work and has been very much afraid to make waves.

11. SEIDEL was especially bitter about CATIDE's position in Bonn. He said that UTILITY generally gets no higher in the government hierarchy than Reinhold Merker. UTILITY also sees Gerstenmeier and Krone occasionally, but his access to even these men is not good. Adenauer came within an inch of firing UTILITY at the time of the Spiegel affair. Erhard received UTILITY once and has ignored him ever since. Westrick is very standoffish. Strauss will not speak to UTILITY. Schroeder is frosty to him and von Hassel is unavailable. SEIDEL said that the people who counted in Bonn were aware of the way UTILITY and CATIDE are floundering around, and if UTILITY was not removed it was only because of his services to Germany in the years after the war and in the creating of CATIDE. However, as soon as UTILITY reached the legal age for retirement (in April 1967), and could be gracefully eased out, he would be dropped with little ado.

for good news

12. Possibly, SEIDEL said, UTILITY might be eased out even sooner. WAGNER, who had long been treated in a humiliating manner by UTILITY, might soon be retired because

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of ill health. His successor, whoever he was, would have to be approved by the cabinet, and this would open the whole question of CATIDE's leadership. The cabinet might then decide to replace UTILITY along with WAGNER. Certainly they would not appoint a vice president for CATIDE without giving some thought to the man who would be his boss for the next several years.

13. I commented at this point that I had heard rumors that HARTWIG would be appointed the next vice president of CATIDE. SEIDEL replied that he had heard the same rumors and could hardly think of anyone less qualified. He said HARTWIG was "charakterlos" and had gotten where he was only by sucking up to UTILITY. SEIDEL added that KUBARK would do well not to put too much confidence in HARTWIG since he had no principles and would always be quick to trim his sails to the direction of the wind.

14. I then asked who SEIDEL thought would replace UTILITY. SEIDEL said he believed it would be a young politician on the rise, probably the protege of some important political figure in Bonn. SEIDEL added that Adenauer had once considered giving the position to his aide, Bachmann, or to a protege named Bach (phon). SEIDEL said that there are a number of other clever and deserving young politicians in Bonn who would be interested in the CATIDE job, and the Bonn politicians would favor an appointment of this type after the UTILITY years. SEIDEL said that he himself thought that a political appointee, if it were the right man, would be an excellent solution for CATIDE. It would at least necessitate a fresh look at everything.

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15. SEIDEL then went on to say that he doubted very much that the politicians would want an active duty General to have the job. SEIDEL also doubted that General Gerhard Wessel would take the job even if it were offered to him. SEIDEL said that he has known Wessel well for many years and during his last trip to Washington stopped to see Wessel with the intention of sounding him out on his views regarding CATIDE. Wessel was not at home, but his wife, whom SEIDEL also knows well, said that Wessel was not interested in coming back to Munich. She said proudly that her husband was getting his third star and had much better prospects in the Bundeswehr than being chief of CATIDE. She added that her husband was especially interested in Graf von Kielmansegg's job in Paris.

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16. SEIDEL said that HOLM's name was also frequently mentioned as a possible successor to UTILITY, but that he didn't believe there was any chance at all that HOLM would be selected. SEIDEL said that HOLM was closely associated with the UTILITY reign and that this would count heavily against him.

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17. SEIDEL then turned to UTILITY's attitude towards America. He said UTILITY had never been really pro-American, and at the present time was quite anti-American. SEIDEL said that in the years between 1945 - 49, UTILITY had been so bitter at the Americans, especially at the US Army, that he came within an inch of breaking with the Americans completely, and doubtlessly would have done so if KUBARK had not assumed responsibility for his organization. SEIDEL said that DESSAU had played an important role in persuading UTILITY to stay on good terms with the Americans during this period. SEIDEL added that he knew that DESSAU had since changed and had become a joke in CATIDE; still, we should remember that DESSAU was one of the most pro-American officers in CATIDE and that we had much to thank him for.

18. SEIDEL said that after arrival UTILITY became more friendly to the US, and remained so for several years. However, after [] departed and CATIDE was legalized, UTILITY again began to grow cold toward the United States. He also began to imagine there was a clique in KUBARK which was out to get him. He attributed all sorts of misdeeds to this clique, among them sullying his reputation in Bonn. When Adenauer tried to fire him, UTILITY even concluded that the KUBARK clique had put Adenauer up to this. SEIDEL said that he didn't know this positively, but believed that UTILITY had once even protested to ASCHAM or [] about this KUBARK clique.

19. SEIDEL didn't go into details, but implied that UTILITY's anti American attitude has a negative influence on CATIDE's present dealings with us. SEIDEL said specifically that if UTILITY did not give us his report on the Bundeswehr SIGINT deserter it would be only because of UTILITY's

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anti-Americanism, since all the other responsible CATIDE officers had cleared the report for passing to us.

20. While discussing UTILITY's attitude toward America, SEIDEL's reserve slipped a little and he said with a slight trace of emotion that KUBARK should know what is going on in CATIDE and that he considered it his duty to tell us. He also said that he was confident I would know how to handle his information securely. Then he became dispassionate again and a short time later stood up and took leave. We arranged to meet again in three or four weeks to discuss the Breisach project, and SEIDEL again volunteered to brief me on the Bundeswehr deserter if UTILITY has not released his report in the meantime.

21. I was naturally surprised that SEIDEL passed me the above information. The last place I ever expected to hear anything like this was from a member of UTILITY's own family. I have the impression SEIDEL has been fretting about the situation in CATIDE for sometime and finally decided to do something about it. I was greatly impressed with his attitude while he was talking. He did not want to be cajoled into talking, thanked for his information, or assured we would handle his information securely. He seemed to be motivated entirely by his own principles.

22. I do not think SEIDEL could be turned into a regular source of incompatible information on CATIDE. However, he knows that I have a sympathetic ear, and I will give him plenty of opportunity to tell me anything else he wants us to know. If things started taking a wrong turn in Germany, I have the feeling that Seidel might be a very useful contact for us to have. He certainly appears to be well motivated and to have the courage of his convictions.

23. I believe that the information SEIDEL furnished is all or in large part true. @BROCK has provided a virtually identical description of CATIDE's troubles, and @STURM and @RITTER have furnished partial descriptions along the same lines.

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